

**JWS Board Meeting**  
**December 9, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Meeting was conducted virtually.**

**Attendance:** Denita Peterson, Suzanne Nichols, Breann Sells, Cami Kay, Stephanie DeWitt  
Denita questioned if there were enough members on the call to form a quorum. Suzanne confirmed that there isn't anything on the agenda that requires a "vote", so we are fine to continue the meeting

**November Minutes** had been sent out after the November meeting. Denita asked again if there were questions, correction or discussion. None were expressed. Breann moved that the minutes be approved. Stephanie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Minutes were approved as sent out on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee Reports**

**Recruiting** – no new ideas were presented. We should stick with using the yard signs we have. Suzanne shared that Sheri & Sign Pro could update the current signs with a plaque at a cost of \$4/sign (2\$ per side). This expense is reflected on the budget under tryouts. Inquiry was made about getting "student directories" from schools – specifically the elementary schools. Those that had committed to looking into that in November had not done so – will do before the Jan meeting. Discussion was given to promoting via social media (Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat, etc.). Breann shared that she had once opened a Twitter account for JWS, but it wasn't being used/viewed and it was difficult for her to maintain so she deleted it. No one volunteered to inquire about using these mediums or to "chair" this aspect of recruiting. Suzanne said she would inquire with Natasha to see if she is willing to give back to the program in this capacity while home over break. Suzanne stressed that given our current numbers – we must hit the U10 age group hard or we will be unable to field teams going forward.

**Indoor Practice** – Denita shared that renting Mt. Mercy's warehouse as in the past is not an option. Coach Yoder has established **Softball Academy** – he uses the Mt. Mercy players for instruction, is willing to contract with us at \$75/hr with the only available time being Saturday mornings 10am-1pm. Concerns were given as to what level of turn out we would have. Members feel that players will be more committed if they pay (something). The issue of payment needs more discussion at a later date. Denita has also inquired with **D-Bats Academy** (Marion); she is waiting to hear back from them regarding team charges, any discounts and available times. **Dugouts** in Fairfax is another option – they have a yearly charge that allows for 1-2 days a week. This maybe more of a commitment than JWS can make at this time. Concern was expressed for how many would travel that distance for a workout. **Perfect Game** has not responded to Suzanne. She will follow up and inform Denita of her findings. Need to decide on indoor facility soon – it effects JWS ability to recruit / hold a tryout as well as retain current players – need to inform them as soon as a decision is made.

**Fan apparel** design was shared by Suzanne on behalf of Ava, Jocelyn & Tess. The girls had come up with a pretty comprehensive design – weaving the theme across fans apparel and practice shirts. Coach Sells shared that she like the saying, no objections were given. Suzanne shared that we could mark up each item \$5 or \$6 and keep price point equal to or less than what the items were last year. Members agreed that the girls (the committee) could move forward with their plans.

Proposed **Practice Shirt** design is simple – just warrior softball on the front with the saying “play like a girl” on the back across the shoulders. This is a very popular movement right now at all levels of girls’ sports. Members had no objection to using the proposed design.

**Revised Budget** – Suzanne shared a reworked budget (just for the spring season) with the disclosure that if we are changing our fiscal year and are going to keep it in alignment with USA Softball registration that our teams would need to re-register with them in September. Thus, the budget that was presented & approved in Nov would be for the newly defined fiscal year. Suzanne suggested fees be set at \$125 for Spring, this would be enough to cover USA Softball registration, league fees and allow \$500 for U10 & U12 teams for tournaments (\$1000 for U14). Members seemed to be okay with the change/adjustment. No official approval was made for overall budget. Members did okay the \$125 fee.

**Suggested By-Law changes** – Suzanne shared that per her inquiry with the State of Iowa. No notification needs to be made if we wish to change our **fiscal year** as long as it remains in agreement with our Articles of Incorporation. We can simply make the change as part of our board meeting (and document in the minutes). Suzanne request that members begin thinking of what they would like the change to be – keeping in mind that there is a snowball effect (board terms would be affected, budgets, sponsorships, etc.) A suggestion should be made at the Jan meeting and voted on at the Feb. – waiting much later will “muddy the waters”. Suzanne asked that members also consider a change to the **legal address** of the organization. Currently it is her address as she is the officer of record & incorporation. The legal address needs to be a physical address (can not be a PO Box), at the time of incorporation the district & WHS did not want the address on Forest Dr. SE used. The legal address can remain in place as long as Suzanne is on the board, once she vacates – the address on all legal documents & filings will need to be changed.

**Fundraising** – Suzanne reported that she was able to get JWS set up with AmazonSmile as Coach Sell suggested in November. Coach Sell was unable to get the AmazonSmile link posted to the JWS Facebook page prior to the meeting – did so at the meeting. No other suggestions were made for fundraising. Suzanne pushed the butterbraids again. Members thought that would be okay – conduct fundraising in time for Easter delivery.

**Sponsorships** – only 2 of our current players have expressed interest in obtaining sponsors for the spring season. Probably will not meet the \$1000 budgeted. Stephanie inquired about the length of time these companies would be recognized as sponsors (would they carry over into fall). Suzanne shared that they will be placed on the practice shirt & that it was her intention to have players wear the same practice shirt for spring & fall. This is another area that would be affected by a fiscal year change.

**New Business/Miscellaneous** – there was no new business brought to the attention of the board.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:18.

**Next Meeting scheduled Wednesday, Jan 6th, 2020 @ 5:30PM TBA location.**